

Message Text

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17

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-15 SMI-01 IO-11 MMO-04 /048 W

----- 099481

R 071830Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

SECSTATE WASHDC 1430

UNCLAS PONTA DELGADA 0146

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SCUL, PO

SUBJ: AZORIAN DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN U.S. BICENTENIAL

1. THE PRESIDENTS OF THE JUNTA GERAIS FOR PONTA DELGADA AND FOR ANGRA HAVE INFORMED US THAT DURING A RECENT MEETING THE JUNTAS OF THE THREE AZOREAN DISTRICTS AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN U.S. BICENTENIAL. THE REGIONAL JUNTA ALSO SUPPORTS THIS IDEA. THE AZOREANS PLAN TO FORM A BICENTENIAL COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE THEIR ACTIVITIES. THEIR INITIAL IDEAS INCLUDE A) PARTICIPATION IN THE BRISTOL R. I. JULY 4 PARADE, B) RENTING A CAMPER TO VISIT AREAS WITH AZOREAN COMMUNITIES ON THE EAST AND WEST COASTS IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL BICENTENIAL CELEBRATIONS AND GIVE OUT INFORMATION ON THE AZORES, AND C) SEND FOLK DANCING GROUPS TO U.S. IN THE AZORES, THEY PLAN TO COMMEMORATE COLUMBUS' STOP AT SANTA MARIA.

2. THE AZOREANS DO NOT KNOW WHAT, IF ANY, PARTICIPATION THE GOP PLANS IN THE BICENTENIAL. THEY PLAN TO SEEK GOP BLESSING FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES WHEN APPROPRIATE, BUT ARE UNSURE HOW TO PROCEED. CONSULATE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION THE EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE.

3. WE NOTE THAT PORTUGAL HAS BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN SMITHSONIANS' FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL IN SEPTEMBER. HAS GOP PLANNED ITS PARTICIPATION? WOULD THIS BE AN APPROPRIATE EVENT IN WHICH TO ENCOURAGE AZOREANS PARTICIPATION?

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4. COMMENT: THIS INITIATIVE IS A CONCRETE EXAMPLE OF THE
STRONG U.S.-AZOREAN TIES AND WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD
ENCOURAGE IT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, COMMITTEES, BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PONTA00146
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760132-0488
From: PONTA DELGADA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760487/aaaacwpe.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <04 JAN 2005 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AZORIAN DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN U.S. BICENTENIAL
TAGS: SCUL, PO, US
To: LISBON
STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006